

### § 3415.3

employee of the Department of Agriculture to whom the authority involved may be delegated.

(h) *Grant* means the award by the Director or Administrator of funds to a grantee to assist in meeting the costs of conducting, for the benefit of the public, an identified project which is intended and designed to establish, discover, elucidate, or confirm information or the underlying mechanisms relating to a research program area identified in program solicitation.

(i) *Grantee* means the entity designated in the grant award document as the responsible legal entity to whom a grant is awarded under this part.

(j) *Peer review group* means an assembled group of experts or consultants qualified by training and experience in particular scientific or technical fields to give expert advice, in accordance with the provisions of this part, on the scientific and technical merit of grant applications in those fields.

(k) *Principal investigator* means a single individual who is responsible for the scientific and technical direction of the project, as designated by the grantee in the grant application and approved by the Director or Administrator.

(l) *Project* means the particular activity within the scope of one or more of the research program areas identified in the annual program solicitation that is supported by a grant under this part.

(m) *Project period* means the total time approved by the Director or Administrator for conducting the proposed project as outlined in an approved grant application.

(n) *Research* means any systematic study directed toward new or fuller knowledge and understanding of the subject studied.

(o) *Methodology* means the project approach to be followed to carry out the project.

[58 FR 65647, Dec. 15, 1993, as amended at 76 FR 4811, Jan. 27, 2011]

### § 3415.3 Eligibility requirements.

(a) Except where otherwise prohibited by law, any public or private research or educational institution or organization shall be eligible to apply for and to receive a grant award under this part, provided that the applicant quali-

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fies as a responsible grantee under the criteria set forth in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) To qualify as responsible, an applicant must meet the following standards as they relate to a particular project:

(1) Adequate financial resources for performance, the necessary experience, organizational and technical qualifications, and facilities, or a firm commitment, arrangement, or ability to obtain same (including by proposed sub-agreements);

(2) Ability to comply with the proposed or required completion schedule for the project;

(3) Satisfactory record of integrity, judgment, and performance, including, in particular, any prior performance under grants or contracts from the Federal government;

(4) Adequate financial management system and audit procedures that provide efficient and effective accountability and control of all funds, property, and other assets; and

(5) Otherwise be qualified and eligible to receive a grant under the applicable laws and regulations.

(c) Any applicant who is determined to be not responsible will be notified in writing of such finding and the basis therefor.

### § 3415.4 How to apply for a grant.

(a) A program solicitation will be prepared and announced through publications such as the FEDERAL REGISTER, professional trade journals, agency or program handbooks, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, or any other appropriate means, as early as practicable each fiscal year.

The Department may elect to solicit preproposals each fiscal year in order to eliminate from consideration proposed research that does not address narrowly focused program objectives. A preproposal will be limited in length (in comparison to a full proposal) to alleviate waste of time and effort by applicants in the preparation of proposals and USDA staff in the review of proposals. If the Department solicits preproposals through publication of the annual program solicitation, the Department does not anticipate publishing a subsequent solicitation for